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# Citizens for Peace Minutes 3-13-12

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE  
Minutes  
March 13, 2012

Our meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced Inner Peace Director, Sally Peck, who started our meeting with a Peace Meditation.

**Special Presentation:**

We were pleased to welcome, Mike Whitty, PhD, to our meeting to discuss how we can “Make Peace with Detroit”. It’s a topic he is well equipped to discuss, as he has been a professor at University of Detroit for over 40 years and is a founding member of the “Association for Humanistic Education”. He has been known as Dr. Detroit since the 1980s.

He opened his discussion by telling us he is very much an optimist and envisions a new grassroots organization utilizing the arts and a loving community as an integral part of a shift in consciousness, when it comes to making peace. It’s not just Detroit that’s having problems - it’s the neighboring communities, also. A regional solution is needed. Thus, to improve conditions in the region, we must turn off the TV set – the negative news, and not allow it to become our brain. Then we must have an attitude of gratitude and partner with others. Unity is possible, but we need more positive media reporting. As stated in the literature he left with us, “We need a good-news network where our positive visions will create a tipping point in human consciousness, allowing a paradigm shift from the creed of greed to one of peace and justice.”

Another item to consider is urban sprawl. It has created isolation. In the neighborhoods, there are few porches and sidewalks. Many don’t know their neighbors, and are isolated. Malls have also contributed to isolation, replacing the downtown shopping areas. He said we need to re-think the urban sprawl and create areas in the region that are destinations. Our conversations should focus on regional partnerships and understanding. Create areas where we can honor cultural and religious diversity.

Peace in the city can be found in the good people. Don’t give in to fear. He said if you’re friendly to others, 99% of the time you will get a good response. If you honor people’s basic goodness and work together many wonderful things can happen. We are all connected and should watch over each other. Friends and family is what keeps a community together. Let’s empower our neighbors, using compassion, to create a wonderful destiny.

He closed by reciting the Optimist’s Creed:

**Promise Yourself ...**

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.  
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

In summary, Be optimistic – you’ll live longer and be happier! The members and guests thanked Dr. Detroit for sharing his vision with us and a Q&A session followed.

**Business Meeting:**

- The Treasurer’s report was presented by Rick Abdoo
- Colleen pointed out the many upcoming activities, on the bottom section of the agenda. All are welcome!
- See Linda Lieder to pay your 2012 dues – thank you for your support!

Colleen thanked all in attendance for joining us, and encouraged us all to continue our efforts in promoting Peace in the region. With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.